

**U.S. EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant
Indiana Brownfields Trails and Parks Initiative
2006 Proposal Summary**

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) intends to apply for U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Brownfields Assessment Grant funding in the total amount of \$400,000 for the Indiana Brownfields Trails and Parks Initiative (Initiative). This three-year Initiative will assist local communities with greenspace and recreational space development projects, with a specific emphasis on trail development.

The State will request \$200,000 for a community-wide assessment grant for hazardous substances and \$200,000 for a community-wide assessment grant for petroleum; the grant proposal will not be site-specific. Through this Initiative, the State will offer Phase I and Phase II Environmental Site Assessments to eligible political subdivisions and non-profit entities for the purpose of developing trails and parks on brownfields throughout Indiana.

Complementing Governor Daniel's commitment to making Hoosiers healthier and improving quality of life, this Initiative will offer increased recreational and exercise opportunities for local citizens. While importance will be given to projects including trail development as they correspond to the Governor's proposed Indiana State Trails, Greenways and Bikeways Plan, rails-to-trails projects will receive priority consideration as they fit with U.S. EPA's Railfields Initiative.

Through the Indiana Finance Authority, the State will provide \$100,000 in additional funds to leverage these U.S. EPA grant funds if awarded. Various resources may be available through other State agencies to further leverage federal grant funds.

The Indiana Brownfields Program (Program) will administer the Initiative 100% through in-kind services. The Program will market the Initiative to eligible entities, will develop an application process for potential projects, and will choose final projects based on competitive scoring criteria. Two or three full-service environmental consulting firms will be selected by the Program through a competitive process to complete the Phase I and Phase II Environmental Site Assessments for the chosen projects. Program environmental project managers will oversee the consultants' project work.

Projects that complete the assessment process without need for remediation will be offered a Site Status Letter from the Program. Site Status Letters are provided at no cost to the recipient and generally state that a site's contaminant levels substantially meet IDEM's Risk Integrated System of Closure (RISC) cleanup levels. Participants with projects requiring remediation will be encouraged to pursue additional funding offered by the Program or the U.S. EPA, such as the State's Petroleum Remediation Grants (for petroleum contamination) or the Stipulated Remediation Grants (for hazardous substance contamination), or the U.S. EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grants. Guiding the projects through the remediation process will help achieve the State's goal that all of the Initiative's participating projects will be completed and successfully redeveloped in a timely manner.